

**MINUTES  
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, October 11, 2011  
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

**Next Meeting:**

November 1, 2011 McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Cynthia Schultz, David Parkhurst, Amy Countryman, Janice Lilly, Ted Mendoza, Toby Strout, Melissa Clark, Caleb Steiner, Amanda Figolah

Regrets: Bill Brown, George Huntington, David Rollo

Staff: Chris Bentley, Jacqui Bauer

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:** the September minutes were approved unanimously.

**Announcements:**

\*Food Policy Council Meeting Local Grower's Build Fall Harvest Feast: Nov. 3, 2011

\*Orchard Work Day: Sunday 16 Oct.

\*Solar Tour: Sat. 15 Oct. @ noon starting at City Hall. Maps will be provided showing where solar installations are located throughout Bloomington. Details at [siren website](#)

\*Greenest Football Game: Sat. Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>

\*Alternative Energy project proposals are due soon.

**Report from the Chair:**

The roundabout project discussed last meeting was fully funded.

Monroe County is calling for nominations from the City of Bloomington for a member of the newly formed Sustainability Commission. Cynthia volunteered; Jacqui will contact the mayor's office to determine if they have been contacted.

Because of the challenges with keeping committees active, Maggie suggested the possibility of undertaking a project to implement every quarter. Some possible project ideas may include:

- Rain barrels
  - Coke is willing to donate barrels to be decorated and auctioned off
  - Potential funding source for the Sustainability Fund
  - Maybe kickoff the project around Martin Luther King, Jr. day?
- Work with greening school cafeterias
- Earth Day event
- Other possible themes?

**Committee reports**

- a. Environmental Commission Planning Committee volunteer?

Dave P. discovered that his schedule is not compatible with the ECPC meeting schedule, but Maggie's schedule has changed again so she is available to participate instead.

b. STAR committee report

Cynthia: Hired a new intern (Andrew Rector), but he was in a car accident recently, which has slowed some progress. Andrew is especially interested in Transportation and so will be looking into that component.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Continue working on adding info and data to web pages

c. Water committee report

Maggie inquired about the status of updates to City of Bloomington water bills, and Jacqui reported that they are exploring adding a 12-month chart of water use for each bill. She also noted that they will be adding a better explanation of the units of consumption to the bills.

In their recommendation letter last year, BCOS had also recommended transitioning to meters that reflect single gallons of usage (instead of the current 1000 gallon minimum). This is a long-term goal.

d. Energy committee report

SIREN will be reporting to BCOS next month about solar installations

e. Food committee report

Food Policy Council activities continue. In addition, the City is working with local stakeholders to develop urban agriculture provisions in the Unified Development Ordinance. These include:

- i. Where urban agricultural can exist
- ii. Increased fence height to discourage deer damage to vegetables
- iii. City Council is exploring modifications to the chicken ordinance and other livestock issues.
- iv. Outlining fruit/vegetable stand regulations

Other activities include a possible celebration to highlight the start of the growing season, a resolution on food to present to the City Council, exploring healthier food for schools, and gardening surveys.

f. Communication committee report

Ted encouraged BCOS members to use the [gnnbloomington.com](http://gnnbloomington.com) website. Members can:

- i. Post on the calendar
- ii. Post topics and stories
- iii. Any member can sign-up to be a contributor

Ted is working on setting up a business sponsorship program for the site as it becomes more established. The group will also hold Happy Hours every other Thursday to spread the word about the site.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Contribute events and other information to the site

### **New Business**

Jacqui reported on the Women's Ride. She was pleased with the turn out: 12 new women came to ride.

Maggie would like more information regarding the efforts of the Platinum Bike Task Force. Jacqui will follow up with the Planning Department.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at **7:10**